

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 16, 18-20 and 22. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Currently amended) A surgical instrument comprising:
 - a receiving component having a longitudinal axis and defining a cavity;
 - a modular tip that includes a mating component, the mating component configured to be coupled in a rigid manner to the receiving component in two or less orientations; and
 - a locking mechanism at the receiving component for securing the tip to the receiving component, the locking mechanism extending through the cavity, and slideably moveable to and from a locked position, wherein the locking mechanism engages at least two surfaces of the mating component.
2. (Original) The surgical instrument of Claim 1, wherein the tip includes a mating component configured to be coupled to the receiving component by insertion of the mating component into the receiving component in a direction substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the receiving component, or by rotating the mating component relative to the receiving component, or a combination thereof.
3. (Currently amended) The surgical instrument of Claim 1, wherein ~~the tip includes a~~ mating component configured to be coupled to the receiving component to form a coupling such that the coupling, without the engagement of the locking mechanism to the surfaces of the mating component, can prevent relative movement between the mating component and the receiving component when such that a force is applied to the coupling ~~the mating component along the longitudinal axis of the receiving component in a direction substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis away from the receiving component is resisted by the receiving component independently from any resistive force applied by the locking mechanism.~~

4. (Currently amended) The surgical instrument of Claim 1, wherein ~~the tip includes a mating component~~ has ~~having~~ at least three planar surfaces configured to engage at least three planar surfaces of the receiving component.
5. (Withdrawn) The surgical instrument of Claim 1, wherein the tip includes a mating component having a conical surface configured to engage a conical surface of the receiving component.
6. (Currently amended) The surgical instrument of Claim 1, wherein ~~the tip includes a mating component having planar surfaces configured to engage planar surfaces of the receiving~~ mating component that engage the locking mechanism are planar ~~to resist a moment or load acting on the tip.~~
7. (Currently amended) The surgical instrument of Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 6, wherein surfaces of the locking mechanism is configured to secure the mating component along at least two surfaces that engage the mating component are planar.
8. (Original) The surgical instrument of Claim 7, further comprising a spring for resiliently biasing the locking mechanism in a locked position.
9. (Currently amended) The surgical instrument of Claim 1, wherein the locking mechanism includes a first member and a second member being moveable within the cavity of the receiving component, each member having a surface that engages, in a locked position, ~~a corresponding surface at least one of the surfaces~~ of the mating component.
10. (Withdrawn) The surgical instrument of Claim 1, wherein the locking mechanism includes a collar slideable along the longitudinal axis of the receiving component between a locked position and an unlocked position.
11. (Withdrawn) The surgical instrument of Claim 1, wherein the locking mechanism includes a collar rotatable about the receiving component between a locked position and an unlocked position.

12. (Currently amended) The surgical instrument of Claim 1, wherein ~~the tip includes a mating component configured to be coupled to the receiving component and wherein~~ the receiving component includes a recess and an opening that form a connecting member in the receiving component, the connecting member being configured to cooperatively engage a recess in the mating component.
13. (Withdrawn) The surgical instrument of Claim 1, wherein the tip includes a mating component configured to be coupled to the receiving component, further comprising a rod configured to cooperatively engage a semi-circular recess in the mating component.
14. (Original) The surgical instrument of Claim 1, wherein the instrument is configured to be used in the compression or distraction of objects.
15. (Original) The surgical instrument of Claim 1, wherein the receiving component is provided at an end of a handle.
16. (Currently amended) A surgical instrument comprising:
 - a receiving component having a longitudinal axis and defining a cavity;
 - a modular tip including a mating component configured to be coupled in a rigid manner to the receiving component; ~~[[and]]~~
 - a locking mechanism at the receiving component for securing the mating component to the receiving component, the locking mechanism extending through the cavity, and slideably moveable to and from a locked position, wherein the locking mechanism engages at least two surfaces of the mating component; and
 - the mating component being coupled to the receiving component to form a coupling such that the coupling, without the engagement of the locking mechanism to the mating component, can prevent relative movement between the mating component and the receiving component when such that a force is applied to the coupling the mating component along the longitudinal axis of the receiving component in a direction substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis away from the receiving component is resisted by the receiving component independently from any resistive force applied by the locking mechanism.

17. (Original) The surgical instrument of Claim 16, wherein the mating component is configured to be coupled to the receiving component by insertion of the mating component into the receiving component in a direction substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the receiving component, or by rotating the mating component relative to the receiving component, or a combination thereof.
18. (Currently amended) The surgical instrument of Claim 16, wherein ~~the mating component includes planar surfaces configured to engage planar surfaces of the receiving~~ mating component that engage the locking mechanism are planar to resist a moment or load acting on the tip.
19. (Withdrawn-currently amended) The surgical instrument of Claim ~~[[16]]~~ 18, wherein the planar surfaces are tapered.
20. (Currently amended) The surgical instrument of Claim ~~[[16]]~~ 18, wherein surfaces of the locking mechanism that engage the mating component are planar ~~is configured to secure the mating component along at least two surfaces.~~
21. (Original) The surgical instrument of Claim 16, wherein the receiving component includes a recess and an opening that form a connecting member in the receiving component, the connecting member being configured to cooperatively engage a recess in the mating component.
22. (Currently amended) An attachment mechanism for a device, comprising:
 - a modular tip that includes a mating component;
 - a receiving component defining a cavity, the receiving component configured to be coupled in a rigid manner to the mating component in two or less orientations; and
 - a locking mechanism at the receiving component for securing the mating component to the receiving component, the locking mechanism extending through the cavity, and slideably moveable to and from a locked position, wherein the locking mechanism engages at least two surfaces of the mating component.

23. (Withdrawn) The attachment mechanism of Claim 22, wherein the locking mechanism includes a collar slideable along, or rotatable about, the receiving component.
24. (Withdrawn) A method for attaching a modular tip to a surgical instrument that includes a receiving component configured to be coupled to the tip, the instrument also including a locking mechanism for securing the tip to the receiving component, the method comprising:
 - actuating a locking mechanism;
 - inserting a mating component of the modular tip into the receiving component by moving the mating component in a direction substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the receiving component, or by rotating the mating component relative to the receiving component, or a combination thereof; and
 - releasing the locking mechanism to secure the tip to the receiving component.
25. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 24, further comprising the step of detaching the tip from the receiving component by actuating the locking mechanism and removing the mating component from the receiving component by moving the mating component in a direction substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the receiving component.